

By Frank Liebeck

There's something happening here,
What it is ain't exactly clear,
There's a man with a gun over there,
Telling me I've got to beware.

It was a hell of a morning to get anybody up.

"Are you going to take pictures?"

"Yes."

"Let me shave first. Give me fifteen minutes. Then I'll be down."

Dr. Mathew Ahern came down promptly, his hair tied in a bun, wearing black pants, boots, yellow turtleneck, the works.

He sees himself as an Everyman. His doctorate from Trulane College will satisfy the Bank President. His guise will appeal to the young liberal. His ideas will be accepted by all.

"A Thing Called Love" was a play written by him last spring, and produced at Burton Auditorium and the Trinity Square Theatre. It dealt with the destruction of a love relationship by what Dr. Ahern calls the underlying Naziism in middle class society. It is not a political ideology, adopted by either rightists or leftists. Naziism lies beneath the entire structure of American society. The mother image dominates, rejecting love. Images of Viet Nam were juxtaposed in the play with music coming from the Hi-Fi set. You would hear the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love" opposing cruelties seen on the slides. The Hi-Fi becomes a new god, emitting the music of love, rather than the latest statistics and reports from the war zone.

"Lyndon Baines Johnson killed the Kennedys, Malcom X and Martin Luther King," states Mathew Ahern with slow precision.

"I have heard that the CIA plotted Kennedy's murder, and that Garrison has proof from a foreign country that this is indeed fact."

"Yes, you see the CIA is Johnson's puppet. When I become President, I will set up a panel of lawyers to investigate these murders."

"If by October, it looks like you might just conceivably win. If by then a bandwagon seems to be forming in your favour, don't you think that you may never make the election, that you will be assassinated before November rolls around?"

"I think they will try. But you see the others were careless. By the middle of October I will make no more public speeches. Before that, in any auditorium in which I speak, the first six or ten rows will be left empty. When I lecture I move around a lot, and I will do that when I speak. I think that they will miss. But if I am shot, my point will be proven."

"In what other way will you conduct your campaign?"

"I hope to be on nation wide television for a half hour every night near the end of October."

"How will you pay for it?"

"By contributions from the people."

Mr. Ahern has a basic optimism for the future of the American people. Though there is a paranoia running rampant in the United

States, a paranoia that brings with it riots, and an unhealthy fear of a Communist takeover, he believes that the middle class is basically decent and will embrace his call for a greater trust. This seems to be the basis behind his psychology. "The people will trust me", he says. It is quite simple. He would of course pull out of Viet Nam, and allow free elections, the result of which he does not doubt for a minute will be in Ho Chi Minh's favour. It is this paranoia that is keeping America in Viet Nam.

"We are climbing out of a pit. World War I, and the death camps of World War II were the bottom of that pit." But as Allison Porter in Osborne's "Look Back In Anger" must sink to great depths in losing her child, before she can find a re-birth, so we have also achieved our low, and now a renaissance is pending.

"So you believe that we are now approaching a renaissance?"

"That's right."

"With you or without you."

"With me or without me."

"Don't you think that your hair style and clothes will prejudice people?"

"It will at first. But looking this way people will also remember me." Dr. Ahern finds that people will regard him with hostility from far away, but when they meet him, they seem quite friendly. "When they see somebody with long hair, they think of pacifist, they think they can walk all over him. Such is not the case with me. You strike me, and I'll hit you right back."

In a place like Cleveland, as President he would work with the Negro mayor, and build up temporary housing for the slum dwellers outside of the city, and then clear up the depressed area.

But I asked him if these citizens would allow themselves to be manipulated, and moved around like that. Again he answers, "They will trust me." By then he would already be President anyways, and this trust would already have manifested itself.

But does Mathew Ahern have the power to win a population over to the extent that he wishes to? The middle aged, middle class conservatives that were in his classes at Atkinson College came through alright. Their dubious gaze turned to respect. At the end of the summer they gave him his first campaign contributions, and formed a group, calling themselves "The Canadians For A Sane President Committee".

A 35 percent popular vote in his favour would force the House of Representatives to choose him as President of the United States. Considering the other dummies running, (Spiro who?) it may not be such a bad idea. We're probably watching Don Quixote chase the windmills. But don't think twice, it's alright.

Paranoia strikes deep,

Into your life it will creep,

It starts when you're always afraid,

Step out of line, the man come and take you away.

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All Photos by Howard Tewsley

Dr. Mathew Ahern,



York prof wants to beat Humphrey and Nixon.

*'Lyndon Johnson
killed the
Kennedys',
Malcolm X,
and
Martin Luther
King*



"I think they will try to kill me."